

News Release



Controller of the State of California - Kathleen Connell

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

STATE CONTROLLER KATHLEEN CONNELL ISSUES PAYMENT TO STATE HISTORICAL LANDMARK

\$475,000 will aid in preservation of Mission San Juan Capistrano

Sacramento, November 2, 2001 – State Controller Kathleen Connell issued a payment of \$475,000 under a State Grant to the Mission located in Orange County.

Mission San Juan Capistrano is one of California's most important historical, cultural and educational centers. Established in 1776, it is known as the "Jewel of the California Missions" and is famous world-wide for the swallows that return every year.

"It is my pleasure to deliver this payment to aid in the conservation of our State's rich cultural heritage," said Controller Connell. "We must act now to preserve these treasures for future generations."

Part of the Mission, Serra Chapel, is the oldest standing building in California. The Mission also houses the Great Stone Church ruins, the padre's living quarters, soldiers' barracks, a Native American cemetery, gardens, museums, and archeological digs. The old Mission is crumbling away with time, erosion and neglect. It has been designated by the World Monument Watch as one of the world's 100 most endangered sites.

A State Grant of \$475,000 has been granted for conservation, preservation and seismic stabilization of this famous State Historical Landmark and was appropriated under the Budget Act.

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